

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendment is in response to the Office Action dated January 11, 2006. Claims 1, 4-9, and 13-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 9, 13, and 14 have been changed, and claims 10-12, 19 and 20 have been cancelled by this amendment.

Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 9 based on informalities, which have been corrected as set forth above. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the objection be withdrawn.

The 102 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 9-11 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,636,077) ("Chang"). Applicant believes that claim 9 is patentable over Chang, but has amended 9 herein to expedite prosecution. Specifically, Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of claims 10, 11, and 12 into claim 9, which the Examiner indicated in the Office Action would be allowable. Applicant has canceled dependent claims 10, 11, and 12. Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims similar in scope to original claims 9-12 in a continuation or other related application.

As to claim 16, Applicant points out that this claim is dependent from claims 1 and 4, and is therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 4 were found allowable by the Examiner in the previous Office Action.

As to claims 17 and 18, Applicant points out that these claims are dependent on amended claim 9, which has been amended to include the allowed subject matter of claim 12 and

intervening claims as indicated above. Claims 17 and 18 are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 9.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 102(e) of claims 9-11 and 16-18 be withdrawn.

The Examiner rejected claims 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Smetana. Applicant believes that claims 19 and 20 are patentable over Smetana, but has cancelled these claims to expedite prosecution of the remaining pending claims. Applicant reserves the right to pursue claims 19 and 20 in a continuation or other related application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 102(b) of claims 19 and 20 be withdrawn.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1 and 4-8, and the indication that claims 12-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of base claim and intervening claims. As explained above, claims 10-12 have been incorporated into claim 9 such that claim 9 is believed allowable.

Conclusion

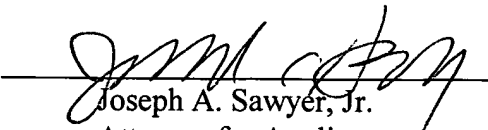
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1, 4-9, and 13-18 are allowable over the cited references. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims as now presented.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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